

honoring Darrel Bowman, recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the National Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. PAUL GRAU

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Paul Grau, who served as Brecksville's and Oakwood Village's law director for the past thirty years.

Paul was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He attended the State University of New York at Oswego. Upon graduation, Mr. Grau married his high school sweetheart, Linda Mruk, and moved to Cleveland. Paul then enrolled in the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and earned his juris doctor degree.

Mr. Grau was a dedicated to public servant. He began working with the City of Garfield Heights' law department in 1976 and was later appointed as the city's law director. During his tenure, in 1978, Paul began working as a managing partner with the law firm of Reddy, Grau and Meek. As he continued to build a successful and meaningful career in both the public and private sector, in 1981 Paul took on the role of law director for the City of Brecksville. Along the way, he left the City of Garfield Heights and in 1992 became the law director for Oakwood Village. Mr. Grau served as the law director for Brecksville and Oakwood Village for thirty and nineteen years respectively.

In addition to his contributions as a law director to three Northeastern Ohio communities, Mr. Grau was dedicated to other community needs. He served on the board, and at one time was the chairman of the Jennings Center for Older Adults for ten years.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Paul Grau. I offer my condolences to his wife of 37 years, Linda; son, Andy; and sister, Mary.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN PRESERVATION TRUST AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the New Haven Preservation Trust on their 50th anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization. Charged to honor and preserve New Haven's architectural heritage—historic buildings and neighborhoods—through advocacy, education, and collaboration, the New Haven Preservation Trust played an integral role in the preservation and restoration of the unique character of the New Haven community.

The New Haven Preservation Trust was founded in an effort to save the James Dwight Dana House, a historic 19th century Italianate

house designed by New Haven architect Henry Austin for one of the century's leading geologists, from demolition. At the time Yale University planned to tear down the home to make way for a new mathematics building. A small group of concerned citizens quickly incorporated the Trust and planned to bid on the house. In the end, the Trust came to an agreement with the University to preserve the Dana House and, through the efforts of the Trust, in 1962, it was designated a National Historic Landmark. Since that time the Trust has been involved with countless efforts to save historic buildings throughout the city including the New Haven Free Public Library, the New Haven Post Office and Federal Building, New Haven City Hall, the John Davies Mansion, and Union Station.

In addition to their efforts to preserve and restore New Haven's historic buildings, the Trust has worked to collaborate with the city government and other organizations to strike a balance between protecting the city's history and allowing for its modernization. In its earliest years, the Trust worked with the city of New Haven on the Wooster Square Project—an effort to restore this architectural and historical treasure. Though the Trust's efforts, the entire neighborhood was designated a historic district and the New Haven Historic District Commission, a permanent city authority responsible for reviewing exterior architectural changes in all local historic districts, was established. In New Haven's downtown district known as the Ninth Square, the Trust worked with local property owners to plan its preservation. The Trust published guidelines and contributed architectural drawings to help owners rehabilitate their facades. Most recently the Trust was brought into discussions regarding the School Construction Program, where it prepared recommendations for moving some buildings threatened by the project to empty lots in the neighborhood. That partnership continued until the Program's work was completed last year.

The New Haven Public Trust has also developed educational programs designed to teach the New Haven public about the community and its history. Plaques have been awarded to numerous buildings which are designed to draw the public's attention to their historical significance and to ensure that future generations know of their value. The Trust also sponsors New Haven Heritage Workshops which teach residents about the architectural styles and histories of the city's neighborhood. Recognizing that one of the best ways to learn about historic architecture is to visit the buildings and neighborhoods, the Trust has designed both walking tours led by local historians as well as pamphlets for self-guided tours.

Through advocacy, distribution of information, historic research, tours, and private consultations, the Trust continues to be New Haven's advocate for the centuries-old architectural heritage. I am proud to join the New Haven community in thanking the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers who work so hard to ensure that our city's rich history is not only preserved but celebrated and appreciated by new generations. Congratulations on your 50th anniversary and best wishes for many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING RETIREMENT OF MR. AMADEO SAENZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Amadeo Saenz, executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.

He has served his agency with great dedication since 1978, and it is indeed fitting to recognize his contributions.

Mr. Saenz, a native of Hebbronville, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering with honors from the University of Texas at Austin and initially began working as an engineering laboratory assistant in the Pharr district.

In October of 1993, he was appointed district engineer in the Pharr district; he was named assistant executive director for engineering operations in Austin eight years later, whereupon, he implemented and managed policies, programs, and operating strategies according to federal and state laws and Texas Transportation Commission regulations and directives. Since 2007 he has acted as the executive director of the agency, managing, directing, and implementing policies, programs, and operating strategies.

A notable Texan, Mr. Saenz served his profession as a member of the Civil Engineering External Advisory Committee for UT—Austin, and has been active in his community as a member of the Rotary Clubs of Laredo and Pharr and by giving generously of his time and talents to the Boy Scouts in the McAllen area.

In all his endeavors, Mr. Saenz enjoys the support and encouragement of his wife, Geraldine, and their children, Priscilla and David. He owns and operates a small ranch in south Texas and takes pleasure in horseback riding and hunting.

He has worked to benefit the citizens of Texas throughout a tenure in public service spanning three decades, and he may reflect with pride on his achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the commitment to service exhibited by the executive director of the Department of Transportation, Amadeo Saenz, Jr.

POST-9/11 TROOPS TO TEACHERS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Post-9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I am pleased to once again be joined in this effort by Representatives DORIS MATSUI and JOE COURTNEY. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its inception in 1994, and I am proud of the fact that since this program was created in 1994, over 12,000 veterans have been placed in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides retiring military with a \$5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in

a high-need school, which until recently was defined as one receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a \$10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: A 2005 study found that eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools at which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need," requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress inadvertently created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department of Education and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003 to 2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this clearly was not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools at which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 395 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the program has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their communities. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able

to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the nation's need for more math and science teachers, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nation's classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. This legislation would correct this error and restore the original intent of the Troops to Teachers program. Our bill would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program may receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching for three years in any school that is in a district receiving grants under part A of Title I. This change would more than double the number of eligible schools for the program.

The legislation would retain the current criteria for troops to receive an additional bonus of \$5,000 for teaching in a high need school, defined as in a school district that has at least 10 percent or greater who come from families living below the poverty level and a school where at least 50 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch or have a "high percentage" of students with disabilities.

This legislation will also increase the number of service personnel who would qualify to participate in Troops to Teachers. Currently, eligibility for Troops to Teachers requires that members of the military have six years of service, and that members of the National Guard and reserves have 10 years of service with a commitment to serve an additional three years. This legislation will change the years of service requirement from six to four years for members of the active duty military to accommodate the many men and women who have served honorably and well in the difficult conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Additionally, it will create a "years of service" exemption for any member of the reserve, National Guard, or active duty military who has served on active duty since September 11, 2001, similar to eligibility requirements for the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Representatives MATSUI and COURTNEY in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. on May 12, during rollcall vote No. 316, I mistakenly voted "aye." I intended to vote "nay." I ask that the record reflect my opposition to this amendment. With respect to energy production-related legislation, I support an all-of-the-above strategy, as long as it is responsible and meets proper safety standards.

FORMAL DEDICATION OF THE
MANDELL AND MADELEINE BER-
MAN CENTER FOR THE PER-
FORMING ARTS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today will be the formal dedication of the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Center for the Performing Arts in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

It is a magnificent, state-of-the-art cultural center on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. It is a result of the generosity of two people who have exemplified over many decades an exceptional sense of gratitude for the opportunities provided to their families by our nation, Bill and Madge Berman.

The focal point of the new Center will be a 350-seat high-tech auditorium that can be opened to a capacity of 600 seats. The Center will be a venue for people of all ages to experience classical and Broadway music and a wide variety of theatrical productions.

Bill Berman graduated from Detroit schools and Harvard College and Business School, and served as a naval officer for 4 years during World War II. He next began a highly successful career in the building business, using his expertise in a variety of commercial activities and related endeavors. His deep sense of community found its voice in his service on the Michigan State Finance Housing Authority and Board of New Detroit, and he also served as the first Chairman of the Skillman Foundation.

Bill Berman became an indispensable force within the greater Detroit Jewish Community in a wide variety of vital religious, charitable and educational activities. In these efforts he was actively joined by his wife, Madge Berman. She was an inspiration for their deep interests in the arts. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Symphony and the Michigan Opera Theater. Madge Berman was appointed to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in 1994 and was reappointed to the President's Committee last year by President Obama.

The fabulous offer for a cultural center by Bill and Madge Berman engendered support from other very generous persons that will help make this new center a reality. This warm and loving couple has brought joy over many years to their friends. They now will bring the joy of the arts to many, many thousands who have never met the Bermans but will benefit greatly from their generosity. I ask all my colleagues to join me in conveying congratulations and thanks to Bill and Madge Berman on the formal dedication today of the new Center bearing their names.

JOHN LOXAS, RECIPIENT OF THE
ROBERT V. HEINZE VOCATIONAL
SERVICE AWARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. John Loxas. John